

Serial No: 10/803,071

James R. Erickson

Attorney Dkt. No. W002

REMARKS

The present Reply is intended to be a full and complete response to the Office action dated December 13, 2006.

Disposition of the Claims:

Claims 1-20 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1-7, and 13-20 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Erickson et al. (US 6,541,553) in view of Erickson (US 5,389,071) {in each instance, "Erickson" is the same inventor as the sole inventor, Erikson, of the present application}.

Claims 8-12 have been objected to for depending on a rejected claim, but otherwise have been indicated as allowable.

Claim 13 has been amended to correct a grammatical error.

Remarks Regarding Rejection and the Declaration:

Regarding Examiner's rejection under 35 USC 103(a), Applicants provide herewith a 37 CFR 1.132 declaration by the instant inventor that he, James R. Erickson, invented and conceived the subject matter in US 6,541,553 that is recited in claims 1-7 and 13-20 of the present application. As a result, the applicability of US 6,541,553 as prior art has been obviated (please see MPEP 716.10). In view thereof, Applicant's respectfully submit that claims 1-20 should now be allowed.

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Conclusion

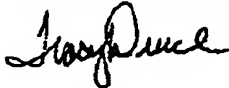
Having addressed all issues set out in the Office action, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

The undersigned representative requests any further extension of time that may be deemed necessary to further the prosecution of this application.

The undersigned representative authorizes the Commissioner to charge any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 or 1.17 that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 14-1437 referencing Order No. 8132.006.NPLUS00.

In order to facilitate the resolution of any issues or questions presented by this paper, the Examiner should directly contact the undersigned by phone to further the discussion.

Respectfully submitted,



Tracy W. Druce
Patent Attorney
Reg. No. 35,493
Tel. +1.713.571.3400